REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 – 61 are pending in application and are subject to an election of species requirement.

Preliminary Remarks

The Examiner states that the application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. The Examiner identifies, specifically, "operative component," "memory component," and "data channel." Applicants wish to point out that the "operative component" referred to in the claims may be a memory component (among numerous other alternatives). See, for example, claim 54. A data channel is called out in claim 23 and claim 60 as an additional element, rather than as one type of embodiment of optical components.

Also, with respect to the three items "operative component," and "memory component," and "data channel," Applicants wish to note that none of the three independent claims affirmatively recites a "memory component" or a "data channel." Also, neither independent claim 1 nor 22 recites an "operative component" as a required element. Claims 1 and 22 each refers to operative components, but does not recite them as required elements of the claim. Specifically, claim 1 and 22 each recites "a plurality of sockets, each socket configured to receive an operative component." The other independent claim, claim 31, also recites "a plurality of sockets, each socket configured to receive an operative component," but also affirmatively recites as an element of the claim "at least one operative component."

Since the three independent claims 1, 22 and 31 each implies a plurality of operative components (corresponding to the plurality of sockets configured to receive them), Applicants' understanding is that a complete response to the election of species

requirement therefore requires identification of a plurality of operative components, i.e., at least two operative components.

Traversal of Election of Species Requirement

If the Examiner is requiring election amongst "operative component," and "memory component," and "data channel," Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement on the grounds that neither a "memory component" nor a "data channel" is required by any of the independent claims, and an "operative component" is not required by independent claim 1 or 22.

Applicants respectfully further traverse the election requirement on the grounds that these three items are not alternative species of the same element. A "data channel" is a different element (see, e.g., dependent claim 54), and a "memory component" is an alternative operative component, as opposed to being an alternative to one of the operative components which the plurality of sockets are operative to receive.

If instead the Examiner is requiring an election of a species of "operative component," and also election of a species of "memory component," and also election of a species of "data channel," Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement on the grounds that at least two operative components (the same or different) need to be elected for the reasons discussed above. As discussed above, the independent claims each calls for a "plurality of sockets," with each socket being configured to receive an operative component. Thus, there are at least two sockets, and each is configured to receive one of a corresponding plurality of operative components.

Response to Election of Species Requirement

Subject to the foregoing traversals and other remarks, Applicants elect the following species. If the Examiner is requiring election amongst "operative component" and "memory component" and "data channel," Applicants elect "operative component."

In this case, the claims readable on the elected species include all claims 1-61, subject to the understanding that claims 1-30 do not affirmatively require an operative component and, rather, merely refer to them in defining the plurality of sockets element of the claims.

If instead the Examiner is requiring election of a species of "operative component," and also election of a species of "memory component," and also election of a species of "data channel," Applicants elect as follows.

A.   Election of Operative Component Species for Independent Claim 31 and Its Dependent Claims

If required by the election of species requirement, for the operative component expressly recited in independent claim 31, Applicants elect an operative component species comprising a device "operative as a chromatographic, electrophoretic, isotachophoretic, isoelectric focusing, field gradient focusing or other separation column or chamber used for focusing and/or elution of molecules, particles, cells, organelles, or other species or objects."

In this case, the claims readable on the elected species include claims 31-33, 37, 46, 48, 51-53 and 59-61.

B.   Election of Plurality of Operative Components Species for All Claims

If required by the election of species requirement, for the plurality of operative components referred to but not recited as an element of the independent claims 1 and 22 and their respective dependent claims, Applicants elect as the plurality of operative components which the recited plurality of sockets are configured to receive: (1) a first operative component comprising a device operative "as a chromatographic, electrophoretic, isotachophoretic, isoelectric focusing, field gradient focusing or other separation column or chamber used for focusing and/or elution of molecules, particles,

cells, organelles, or other species or objects;" and (2) a second operative component comprising a device operative "as a component that is a NMR or MRI spectroscopy detector (e.g., a flowcell and a microcoil in combination)."

In this case, the claims readable on the elected species include claims 1-33, 37, 46, 48, 51-53 and 59-61, subject to the understandings (1) that claims 1-30 do not affirmatively require an operative component and, rather, along with claims 31-61, refer to operative components in defining the plurality of sockets element of the claims; (2) that claims 31-61 affirmatively call for "at least one operative component;" and (3) that claim 61, directly dependent from claim 31, further recites "... wherein the operative component comprises: a substrate body defining: at least one fluid input port; at least one microscale fluid flow channel; and at least one operative device."

C.   Election of Memory Component Species.

If required by the election of species requirement, Applicants elect as a memory component species a read/write memory component.

In this case, the claims readable on the elected species include claims 1-54 and 56-61.

D.   Election of Data Channel Species.

If required by the election of species requirement, Applicants elect as the data channel species a data channel in electrical communication with the (optional) data port.
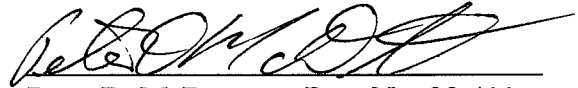
In this case, the claims readable on the elected species include claims 1-61, with claims 15-21 expressly reciting a data channel and the other claims being generic in the sense of reading on embodiments having a data channel as well as embodiments not having a data channel.

<u>Conclusion</u>

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the election of species requirement. A petition for a two month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and the accompanying fee are filed herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

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